(c) whether any conditions have been put for the above; and

(d) by when TRAI would unveil its plan of digitization of cable television?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has submitted its recommendations on Digitalization of Cable Television on 14th September, 2005. The recommendations including details of licensing conditions, plan of digitalization of cable television etc. are available on TRAI's website w.w.w.trai.gov.in

Digitalization of cable T.V. network

1283. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that submitted its plan for digitalization of cable TV network and complete it by 2010 *i.e.*, before the Commonwealth Games;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has moved any proposal in this direction;

(c) whether it is also a fact that once digital technology comes in the existing TVs, the analogue technology will become non-functional; and

(d) if so, whether his Ministry is thinking of any plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has in its recommendations on "Digitalisation of Cable Television on" issued on14th Sept. 2005, *inter alia*, suggested that there should be a national plan for digitalization from 1st April, 2006 till 31st March, 2010. It has further been stated therein that this plan would be indicative and would not be mandatory in any form. Government has not formulated and views on this issue.

Serials encouraging superstition

1284. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that serials encouraging superstition are broadcast on Doordarshan particularly on Doordarshan Channels No. I and II;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that such serials have founded the suspicion of doubt among the common man;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to prohibit/stop such serials; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Prasar Bharati has stated that no such serials which encourage superstitions are broadcast on Doordarshan.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Vacancies and pending cases in courts

1285. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of judges in Supreme Court, various High Courts, District Courts, till date, State-wise;

(b) the steps being taken to fill up the vacancies expeditiously;

(c) the reasons for not taking steps in advance to fill up the anticipated vacancies as date of retirement of each Judge is a matter of record;

(d) the number of cases (criminal/civil) pending in Supreme Court, various High Couts, District Courts, till date, State-wise;

(e) whether the huge pendency of cases at different level, has some correlation with the existing vacancies; and

(f) if so, the corrective measure, Government intend to take?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (f) The sanctioned strength as also the number of posts lying vacant in Supreme Court and various High Courts as on 01.12.2005 is given is the enclosed. Statemen-I *(See* below)

2. Filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous consultative process among the constitutional authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vancancies do keep arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges.

2.1 Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the process of initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges of a High Court lies with the Chief Justice of that High Court. The Government has, however, been requesting